

**1239 West 2600 North  
Clinton, UT 84015**

January 19, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I do not believe it is prudent to punish Microsoft for its own ingenuity and success. The only reason Microsoft has been able to achieve such market dominance is because it puts out a better product than its competitors and therefore enjoys a greater degree of popularity. Free enterprise is one of the fundamental principles this country was established on, and I regret that laws put in place to protect the public interest have begun not only to discourage free enterprise, but to negatively impact consumers as well.

I do not doubt that Microsoft was brought to trial because it had indeed violated antitrust laws. But I do not believe it is necessary to cripple the Microsoft corporation simply because their software is of a higher quality than others'. The settlement proposed last November is, I believe, fair both to Microsoft and its competitors, and I find no reason to throw it out. Microsoft has agreed to allow its competitors to have access to source code and interfaces integral to the Windows operating system so that non-Microsoft software will be able to be introduced into Windows. Microsoft has also agreed to reformat future versions of Windows to the same effect. Microsoft has actually been quite generous in the terms of the settlement.

Sincerely,

  
Ben Wofford